(c) and (d) State Government had sought permission for the prospecting licence for mining for the project, Department of Mines, Government of india, had accorded their approval to the same.

[*English*]

Research Ship 'Sagar Sampada'

1148. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the research ship 'Sagar Sampada' which was sent to Arabian Sea to find out any evidence of pollution resulting from gulf war has indicated contamination of sea of any kind;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when was this oceanographic cruise undertaken and the names of scientists who were associated in the research?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) No, Sir. No evidence of pollution was found by the team which was sent for this investigation.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The cruise of Fisheries & Oceanographic Research Vessel "Sagar Sampada" was undertaken from 15th to 26th March, 1991. The scientific team was led by Dr. R. Sen Gupta, Deputy Director, National Institute of Oceanography, Goa and the names of the other Scientists are as follows:

I. *National Institute of Oceanography, Goa*:
Dr. S.P. Fondekar
Dr. P. V. Narvekar
Dr. K. Sawkar
Dr. P. Shirodkar
Shri R. Alagarsamy
Dr. S. G. P. Matondkar
Dr. Z. A. Ansari
Shri R. Vijaykumar
Dr. Elgar Desa
Shri R. G. Prabhu Desai
Shri Eurico Desa

II. *India Meteorological Department*:
Shri Y.E.A. Raj
Shri Kuldeep Wali

III. *Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Cochin*:
Dr. K. J. Mathew
Shri I. R. Leopold
Shri R. Balakrishnan
Shri K. K. Sureshkumar

IV. *Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Cochin*:
Shri M. S. Fernando

Upward revision of Margin on Essential Commodities

1149. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prescribed a margin for the supply of essential commodities;

(b) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has been repeatedly requesting for the upward revision of the margin in the remote parts of tribal areas;

(c) whether the Government propose to revise the margin; and

(d) if so, the date by which it is likely to be increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The State Governments and U.T. Administrations fix the margins for distribution of PDS rice and wheat with reference to the Central issue prices fixed by the Central Government. However, Central Government